

106TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. CON. RES. 205

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 10, 1999

Received

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## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Recognizing and honoring the heroic efforts of the Air National Guard's 109th Airlift Wing and its rescue of Dr. Jerri Nielsen from the South Pole.

Whereas the 109th Airlift Wing of the Air National Guard is based at Stratton Air National Guard Base in Glenville, New York;

Whereas the 109th was called upon by the United States Antarctic Program to undertake a medical evacuation mission to the South Pole to rescue Dr. Jerri Nielsen, a physician who diagnosed herself with breast cancer;

Whereas the 109th is the only unit in the world trained and equipped to attempt such a mission;

Whereas the 10 crew members were pilot Maj. George R. McAllister Jr., senior mission commander Col. Marion G. Pritchard, co-pilot Maj. David Koltermann, navigator Lt. Col. Bryan M. Fennessy, engineer Ch. M. Sgt. Michael T. Cristiano, loadmasters Sr. M. Sgt. Kurt A. Garrison and T. Sgt. David M. Vesper, flight nurse Maj. Kimberly Terpening, and medical technicians Ch. M. Sgt. Michael Casatelli and M. Sgt. Kelly McDowell;

Whereas the crew departed Stratton Air Base for McMurdo Station in Antarctica via Christchurch, New Zealand, on October 6, 1999;

Whereas on October 15, 1999, Aircraft No. 096 departed McMurdo for the South Pole, where the temperature was approximately  $-53$  degrees Celsius;

Whereas Major McAllister piloted a 130,000 pound LC-130 Hercules cargo plane equipped with Teflon-coated skis to a safe landing on an icy runway with visibility barely above minimums established for safe operations;

Whereas less than 25 minutes later, following an emotional goodbye and brief medical evaluation, Dr. Nielsen and the crew headed back to McMurdo Station;

Whereas the mission lasted 9 days and covered 11,410 nautical miles; and

Whereas Major McAllister became the first person ever to land on a polar ice cap at this time of year: Now, therefore, be it

1        *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*  
2   *concurring)*, That Congress recognizes and honors the

1 crew of the Air National Guard's 109th Airlift Wing for  
2 its heroic efforts in rescuing Dr. Jerri Nielsen from the  
3 South Pole.

Passed the House of Representatives November 9,  
1999.

Attest:

JEFF TRANDAHL,  
*Clerk.*